

Winter Newsletter.

What a great half term we have just had!

Well we are so proud of all the children, they have come back and settled into a new routine and a slightly new way of nursery with so much ease and enjoyment. Well done to them all. I want to thank you all too for being so great at respecting our new rules and helping us to give the children a confident and happy start to this new academic year, we really couldn't have done it without your support so much thanks from the whole team here.

The nursery has had a few changes over this last half term mainly to tweak things to make it easier and safer.

We have moved our lunch and dinner room to our bigger end room which means the children and staff have more room to enjoy meals and they have a nice quiet area for when they have finished, we are using the lunch room to do some smaller activities in and the children have been enjoying going in to do different activities with a small group of friends. We plan to continue to use the rooms in this way for the foreseeable future but the children have all adjusted well to the change.

We have had 2 new staff members join us this term Tristan who has worked at most of the Little hands nurseries during his holidays from University but we are delighted to have him join us this year and the children have loved having a chap to play with, he is always surrounded by children chatting away to him about everything from dinosaurs to how you float in a swimming pool!

We also have Gaby who joined us a few weeks ago and the children are enjoying seeing a new face and a baker! The smells of fresh baked cookies coming from the kitchen last week was very tempting! We will add their faces to our display board as we know we cannot invite you in at the moment.

Please do add your photos and stories to your tapestry profile as we love seeing what you have been getting up to at home and the children really love sharing what they do with us!

Book of the week.

This last half term we have been sharing a book a week with the children this is displayed on our door and the children and us share it everyday, it has been a lovely way to encourage the children's love of stories and we have chosen them to reflect what the children have been showing interest in and encouraging some lovely discussions within the nursery with the children.

Our list so far has been:

The Invisible String

I like Myself

Goodbye Summer Hello Autumn (my favourite so far!!)

The Squirrels who Squabbled

A Monster surprise

Mixed

What the ladybird heard on Holiday

The Smeds and the Smoos

Most of these are available on you tube if you want to share at home!

We have also now got a little library outside in the foyer, please feel free to take a book home to share with your child, once you bring it back to nursery we have a returns book for it to go in and we will then keep all our returned books out of circulation for 2 weeks.

Winter Weather

We have always been an inside outside nursery with the children being able to choose but it is even more important now that we make sure that the children are able to be outside as much as possible and we have the door open every day. To this end please can we ask that you layer up the children as we can peel layers off if they get hot but it will keep them warm as the weather starts to get colder. Please can you ensure that your child has waterproofs and wellies to make sure that the time they spend outside is enjoyable and they are warm and toasty. Please make sure you label EVERYTHING you'd be surprised how many of you have the same taste in clothes!

Our younger children have lots of opportunities to be outside and exploring so they also need to be warm and toasty so please ensure that they also have waterproofs and wellies or filled in toes so they can explore and play in comfort.



Illness

We have sent out our Covid sickness policy and procedure separately so please make sure you are familiar with that and know what to do if your child is unwell with any of those symptoms .

Our policy for the dreaded sickness and diarrhoea bug is 48 hours away from Nursery. Please don't bring your child into nursery until they have had 48 hours since their last bout. I really appreciate your support in this as I know how difficult this can be especially as normally after 24 hours they are bouncing around looking fine!!

For all other illnesses we follow the latest guidelines from NHS Direct which does change from time to time so if you are worried about whether to bring your child in then please do check the website. **If you have had to give your child any medication to help them get through the day ie Calpol then we would ask you to not bring them in that day.**

E-mail address

Our e-mail address is lh-melbourn@btconnect.com and [lhmelbourn1@gmail](mailto:lhmelbourn1@gmail.com) if you would like to contact us in this way. Please note that the emails are not always checked if we are busy so if your query is urgent then please phone us instead.

PAYMENT OF FEES

Little Hands preferred payment methods are direct bank payments or Childcare vouchers. Payments should be made within 2 weeks of the invoice date or a late pay fee of £20 will be added. Alternative payment arrangements (cheque or cash) or timings may be possible please speak to the nursery manager in advance

Direct Bank Payments

Fees can be paid directly into the nursery bank account either at a bank/post office or via Internet banking. The nursery bank details are:

Bank: HSBC
Sort Code: 401659
Account Number: 60037524

The payment should be referenced with your child's name and written notification emailed to Jane Marshall little.hands@icloud.com stating your child's name, payment amount and date payment has been made; this is essential to prevent payments being mistakenly attributed to the wrong family. If email is not an option the written notification can be given as a note/letter to the nursery manager.

Collection of children

Please note that our pick up times are **12, 1.00, 3.00, 4.00 5.00 and 5.30** if you come at any other time then please be patient if we don't open the door

straight away, we are often in numbers with the children and can't leave to open the door until we have made sure the children are safe, if you can stick to our pick up times (or as close as possible) it would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Holiday Club

I will be sending out the holiday club form with this newsletter so please do get back as soon as possible with your requests. Please remember that at this moment we can't accept children from other settings so any siblings unfortunately won't be able to attend. My apologies for those of you who this will affect but for now it is important that we do all we can to keep your children and our staff as safe as we possibly can.

Dates for your diary

Children in need 13th November:

Next week we will be wearing pyjamas or spots throughout the week to celebrate Children in need so please feel free to bring your child in pyjamas, onesies, spots anything to help celebrate Children in need week, I will leave the donation box out the front if you wish to contribute please do but you don't have to.

Please keep an eye on your emails and our notice board out the front as we will post up anything that we are doing in the nursery and involving the children.

Many thanks as always for your support at Nursery and lets all do our bit to stay safe and well during this next lockdown.

